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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Reported Military Developments: Snow Equipment for
ZIS-42 Vehicle/ Camouflage and Medical Training/
Training of Dogs to Find Land Mines

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Equipment

1. "It was observed in Nov 53 that the transport companies of the motorized and guards rifle regiments in the Leningrad Military District were provided for the winter with steel 'automobile skis', to convert their semicaterpillar automobiles into snow-going ('sniegokhodny'), semicaterpillar vehicles. Most of the vehicles observed were 8-ton ZIS-42 vehicles. Actually these are fast transport tractors. The steel skis are attached to their front wheels. The skis have the following measurements:

Total length	- 2000 mm
Bearing length	- 800 mm
Breadth	- 450 mm
Front end turned up for	- 200 mm
Back end turned up for	- 170 mm

The steel skis prevent the front part of the vehicle from sinking into the snow, and lessen the snow resistance during movement. The skis make ruts in the snow for the caterpillar treads to follow. The snow-going ZIS-42 takes a load of 2.5 tons and can tow trailers weighing up to three tons. In soft snow it moves with a velocity of up to 20 km per hour; on roads with a velocity of up to 30 km per hour. A 'transport company of a rifle regiment' has been observed to have the following composition:

12 sleigh trains each consisting of one ZIS-42 plus three one-ton sleighs of the military type, 1 e the company consists of 12 ZIS-42 vehicles and 36 sleighs. Such a company can transport a load weighing 66 tons.

In winter the transport companies of the rifle regiments in the Leningrad Military District have 'sleighs of the military type', which carry a one-ton load, instead of vehicles for a 'pair of horses' as in the summer.

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Camouflage Training

2. "A so-called camouflage service is attached to the headquarters of each Soviet military district. The Leningrad Military District has two separate camouflage battalions at its disposal; some districts have only one or two companies. The camouflage units belong to the Engineer Corps. In the Leningrad Military District the duties of the camouflage battalions include:

- (a) Preparations for camouflage of all strategic military objects within the territory of the military district.
- (b) Execution of camouflage projects -- in peace time in a manner that will not interfere with normal life.
- (c) Maintenance of existing camouflage projects.
- (d) Control over maintenance of 'camouflage discipline' and awareness within the district.
- (e) Preparation and execution of dummy camouflage projects.

The camouflage units execute only large-scale projects, such as camouflage of large objects of military importance, construction of large dummy objects and mass camouflage painting projects. The equipment of these units includes paint sprays, camouflage nets, and prefabricated camouflage covers.

Medical Supply Training

3. "A faculty for training in the organization of military medical supplies has been established at the S.M. Kirov Academy in Leningrad. This course, a six-year unit, is believed to be the only one of its kind in the USSR. The faculty will train officers of the military medical service to procure and handle supplies. Graduates will be appointed to posts as:

- (a) Heads and deputy heads of military medical supply departments of military district and large army units.
- (b) Heads and deputy heads of central military medical depots for military districts and for field depots of armies.
- (c) Heads of 'medical-sanitation' battalions of military districts, fronts and armies.

The main subjects of the course are:

Organization of military medical supply
Organization of 'medical-economic' supply
Science of military medical materials and goods
Military pharmacy
Tactics of military-medical supply

Each year 100 persons are to be admitted to this faculty. Other departments of the S.M. Kirov Academy which deal with problems of medical supplies are the Scientific Research and Testing Institute of Military Medical and Sanitary Stores and the Experimental Construction Bureau for Military Medical and Sanitary Supplies. The teaching staff consists of military surgeons and engineers. Thus, the Academy studies such problems as the processing and testing of military medical, sanitary, bath and laundry supplies, new medicines, new techniques, problems of storage etc.

Aviation Technical Training

4. "In Sept 53 the Administration of Vocational Training at the Ministry of Culture of the Estonian SSR sent six Estonian boys to the Liubertsy Military-Vocational School in Liubertsy, Moscow oblast. This school is subordinate to the Soviet Ministry of Culture. It was founded in 1946 by the Ministry for Labor Reserves. It trains skilled workers for the repair workshops of the air force, the armored and tank forces and the motorized troops. The course of tuition lasts three years. Upon finishing this course students must serve three years on a par with the free workers at any air force repair workshop to which they are assigned by the authorities. The training at the Liubertsy Military-Vocational School is considered equivalent to three years of compulsory service in the Soviet Air Force.

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Canine Training

5. "At the Central Military-Technical School for the Training of Service Dogs (Tsentral-naia Voienno-Tekhnicheskaya Shkola Dressirovshchikov Sluzhebnykh Sobak') in Moscow there is a class to instruct dogs to trace land mines. The course lasts 12 months. 'Sapper' dogs and their sergeant leaders are trained to discover mine fields and also isolated mines buried in the ground. Given the proper native senses, these dogs can after 12 months:

Smell new mines at a distance of one-three meters

Smell new mines at a depth underground up to 40 cms

Stop when they find a mine, thus warning their leaders to give them a long lead

These dogs are used by reconnaissance units and by small rifle units for crossing dangerous areas quickly, especially by night."

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238.3	527N

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